6/14/93

David Lifton
11500 Olympic Blvd., #400
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear David,

You rushed to write when you could indulge your innate meanness and intellectual sadism, when you could enjoy your misrepresentations, distortions, lies, diversions and irrelevancies. Now that it is clear to you that for once you can't get away with them, you fall silent. The record is thus clear between us and for the future. There are those things about which I wrote you that you can't deny because they are true. You are what you are and that is an unconscionable, self-seeking, amoral, unprincipled object of contempt, a knowing exploiter and commercializer of that great national tragedy, one so devoid of any real accomplishment after years of work in the field that to avoid his bankruptcy in his own eyes made up out of nothing a fraudulent "solution," knowing all the time it is fraudulent, and revels in the synthetic fames it brought him and lives well on the Judas shekels he did not fritter away, misled by his own conceept of his unique genius. You are indeed a monster!

My friend Jerry McKnight came to pick up some books. I then learned that you have made demands on Hood that no man of principle could bring himself to make and that along with that you threaten to sue. Lifton in his old trick or making so much of a nuisance of himself that for others it is easier to do what he wants than to put up with his abuse. Didn't you get about $50,000 from Oliver Stone, who had no need for you or your trash that way? It is your standard method and because you can be persistent in your obnoxiousness it often works.

Your stool-pigeon misinformed you about me. I have no interest in any of Sylvia's files, including those of your correspondence and I've never looked at them. Moreover, with you, I have no need for anyone else's opinion and I know what you know I know because you have my stolen analysis of your book and enough of the proof that you are and it is a gross fraud. If I had any interest in hurting you I'd have no need for Sylvia's opinions or anything about your many misconducts of which she learned.

When you did not return what Wayright stole I used odds and ends of time for the draft of an essay that I'll title "The Analysis of an Assassination Fraud" or "The Autopsy of an Assassination Best Seller." Maybe with the coming flood of trash to mark the anniversary I may seek to have it published. I don't know and I don't want to take the time to edit it. But maybe I will. My purpose was to make a record for our history. That I've done, with sufficient documentation. Who knows? I may be tempted.

Even now that you have indicated that Sylvia's files hold what is very embarrassing to you, I have no interest in going through them. Are your youthful boasts of your stealing in them? Or your other lack of ethics and morality? You did boast and some of those to whom you boasted told me contemporaneously. Particularly about your abusing Liebeler's trust in you.

So you make demands for suppression and threaten to sue. You are going to see your lawyer. But whether or not you know, he knows there are serious sanctions for filing frivolous lawsuits. They apply to both, or can. He'll have to be of the firm of Shyster, Shyster, Shyster and Hemlock to take such a case for you!

What basis do you have for any suit at all? None, and you know it!

And what would those gullibles who think so much of you based entirely on your representation of yourself and your misrepresentation of your work think if they learn that their hero demands suppression rather than full and open disclosure of everything? Will they still have a hero? Or will they see a coward, a man afraid of the truth about himself?

I'm sure you have no intention of suing and not only because you have no legitimate basis for a suit but because you do not want people to know what would emerge. For one thing, any assessment of damages involves the character of the person who claims damages. My would that make a public record of the real David Lifton! The man who persists in justifying my comparison of him with nazi thinking and practises.

And don't forget I have those two tapes! The one on which you laid out the assassination from papier mache trees in ~~Dalage~~ Dealey Plaza and the escape through those tunnels dug and filled in in secret by LBJ's pals at Brown & Root is on a 5-inch reel but the one of your call to me when I was in LA about election time in 1968 is on a cassette. You and your LBJ as the chief assassin, assisted by, and you switched them, Dean Rusk or Allen Dulles!

These will certainly make you the hero to your claque! Not to say in your own eyes.

I have no connection with Hood and the librarian has not even mentioned this to me. I do not know what if anything they'll do to respond to your threat. But I do know what I am willing to do if you do not end your harassment, your terrorism, your seeking a nuisance value for your mean and contemptible self. Believe me, Devious Dave, I'll take the time and you have an idea of what I have and can do.

What a shit you are, misusing what you say Roger wrote you about me and simultaneously demanding the suppression of what you wrote Sylvia or what she recorded about you!

You are the personification of corruption!

Harold

Harold Weisberg

P.S. McKnight told me you sent him one of my recent letters to you. So, I made copies of all of them, yours and mine, and gave them to him. You may also want to remember that, like Waybright ostensibly for Livingstone, I give all writers access to my file and copier. (Gonna sue me?)

Deprav-ed David,

You have made my day!

I got to thinking about this later, really about you and what you have said and done, and it all lends itself to Liftonian treatment.

I remembered your call after your book appeared. You asked me my opinion of it. I did not tell you, wanting not to argue. Instead I called to your attention that your Bethesda "reconstruction" did not include all of which you knew before the autopsy could have begun. You said there was plenty of time because the autopsy did not begin until 10 p.m. I asked you how you could say that. You told me your source was Ebersole, the radiologist!

Then as I may have told you, there was the matter of the rear gate. Your chart in the book shows it as an ungated entrance. It was a strong gate-and it was locked beginning about 4 p.m. Not for security, for crowd control.

But what I think is most enjoyable is your "surgery of the head area." That, so to speak, is a killer.

You interviewed the SA whose report is so vital to your abomination and you interviewed O'Connor, the latter quite important to your concoction. If you did not ask them about your "surgery of the head" misinterpretation, that was at the least negligent and if you did you suppressed it. That would have meant no problem to you- you denied your readers not only the full text of that report- you denied them even the rest of that paragraph. It, after all, refutes your fantasy. But more, one of them has been interviewed on tape. And he, your source, said that "surgery of the head" was a question, not a statement of fact.

It would not take much time or effort to put together a little press kit, if I may call it that, not referring to the media. Then I got to thinking where it might be of greatest interest. Then I wondered whether Dutton would like it to promote your Oswald book.

There was a saying in the Army in World War II; they can't make you do it but they sure as hell can make you sorry if you don't.

I can't make you return my stolen property. I also can't make you stop behaving like the monster you are, to stop making trouble and a nuisance of yourself for no legitimate reason at all. But I would prefer this to any alternatives.

Despite your lies, you know I have remained almost entirely aloof from the wrong-headed books of those with exalted conceptions of their wisdom and genius and of those who commercialize and exploit the assassinations. I would prefer not to believe I have reasons I did not have before for not continuing to be detached from all of that. Whether I believe that I can will be decided for me by others.

Whom the gods would destroy... David,

How wonderful that you make my day all over again!

Please do exactly as you threaten, tell the people at Hood all you have in your 6/10/ 93 resumption of your proof of all the descriptions of you I have used! If you think it is a threat to me for you to send them copies of these letters, waste the time, the copying cost and the postage to duplicate what I've given them. As will this exchange, of course. I doubt they'll pay any attention to you with what they have already seen, but what the hell, do it anyway. Show them the real you as I can't as effectively. And would not have tried with anyone absent your causing it.

The President is Dr. Martha Church. The vice president is Dr. Barbara Hetrick.

To the best of my knowledge they know nothing about your recent insanities. I've not wasted their time for any mention of you. What I want you to be sure to repeat, not that I won't give file copies, is your saying "I think your behavior in sneaking around and going through Sylvia Meagher's papers in search of letters from me..."

As I've told unlistening you often enough, ypu believe your own lies as soon as you make them up. About yourself, about others, about face and evidence -everything.

Were it not that I want to perfect the record for history, which really means to anyone not wedded to your insanities, the record you make of yourself, I'd say no more. But I really do love what with your customary disregard for truth and fact, your substitution of what you make up and want to be real for it, I'd not take this time.

Your first sentence is "I am in receipt of your latest item of hate mail." As I've said over and over again, when you can't face truth and reality you attack- and lie. A la Goebbels and a number of other prominent nazis, beginning with Hitler. You got that letter and this is your nonresponse. Thank you!

You express the informed opinion in the form of a question, wondering "if the people at Hood (including) the president herself really understand the kind of person you are."

Poor egomaniac, let me tell you a few of the ways they've had of knowing:

They get all we have, not only my records, with no quid pro quo.

I've been conducting seminars there for about 20 years, unpaid. You might want to find out for yourself what they have been, how they have been received. Ask McKnight-his classes. Or the vice president-she took one in. No, she is too busy and I doubt she'd respond.

Off and on for more than two decades students-all women- have worked independently here and have worked, for pay, here. The one who did for the past two years wanted her parents to meet us when they were here for her graduation. They took us to dinner and there was more public hugging and kissing than I can remember-none of which began with me.

We are and have been guests at invitation-only college affairs. At next to the last one we were photographed with the president. Enough for even you?

You refer again to to what you refer to as "the whole affair with Thornley." You remove the little doubt I had that you were the zany who made all that nonsense up, not Fred New-

comb. (Did you know that in 2/68 he took pictures of me, promised to send them to me, didn't, and a year or so ago I got one from the FBI?) Again, it is just lovely that you are so lingeringly faithful to your own fabrications. I do not recall how much explanation I gave Fred at the time and if I did not tell him the reason I'm certainly not going to tell you now. But as I'm sure you know I did not type that memo and it had no such purpose as you made up. In fact it was for the exact opposite purpose. And supporting what I am telling you is a tape recording of two people who are the only two who had any knowledge of that matter other than the person involved-whose identity was in question. With me was a man with official responsibilities.

Where your second page pretends to relate to fact it is Liftonian lies. Where you offer your opinion I'd be ashamed if you said anything else. Coming from you, that is.

You ask me if I know the meaning of a Yiddish word you misspell. Spelling it correctly I recognize it as descriptive of you and your career. Nudnick.

You've added a new self-description, thinking that all the world is like you, acts and thinks like you. I "pestered" nobody to get those records free. It was a judicial decision, in open court, with the six lawyers of the DJ's "Get Weisberg" (their title of their own creation) crew and some from the FBI present and contesting that decision. Without a word from me the DJ then applied it across the board.

I was, however, broke and in debt, a condition that was not relieved until our farm was made part of a state park. That condition did not prevent me from filing and fighting all those FOIA lawsuits, from filing appeals that were precedental, and from fighting the case over which the Congress amended FOIA in 1974 to open CIA, FBI and similar files. I continued printing books for which I could not pay. And schnorers like you stole it and pretended they had done that work, brought that information to light.

Poor unlearning schmuck, most people are not sick in the head like you and believe their own lies as soon as they are uttered. Most people do not believe that total corruption is honesty, decency, ethics or morality.

Unlike you I do not avoid signing letters so that later I can pretend I did not write them. But I guess you are the wrong person to ask if any other rational purpose is served by that.

You have earned my thanks (and I am aware that you are quote capable of quoting selectively, you have done so much of that, witness Sibert and O'Neill from your letter) for perfecting your self-portrait as a man deserving of the most unlimited contempt.

You have mine!

Harold